

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A combination, comprising:  
a ring;  
a separate strap attached to the ring; and  
a recorder, wherein the ring is disposed around a shaft of the recorder.
2. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the ring is comprised of a resilient material comprising:  
a ring;  
a separate strap tied to the ring; and  
a recorder, wherein the ring is disposed around a shaft of the recorder.
3. (Original) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the strap is tied to the ring.
4. (Original) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the ring lodges around the shaft of the recorder in a position that does not block any air holes of the recorder.
5. (Original) A combination according to claim 4, wherein the ring lodges at a point along the shaft of the recorder near the mouth piece end.
6. (Original) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the ring supports the recorder without impairing its playability.
7. (Original) A combination according to claim 1, wherein the strap is a neckstrap configured to support the recorder from a neck of a user in a position of ready accessibility.
8. (Original) A combination comprising:  
a recorder comprising a shaft having a mouth piece section disposed at a first end of the recorder shaft, wherein a diameter of the shaft is enlarged along a portion of the mouth piece section of the shaft;  
a ring disposed around the mouth piece section of the shaft; and

a separate strap attached to the ring and configured to suspend the recorder from the neck of a user.

9. (Original) A combination according to claim 8, wherein the ring is disposed around the mouth piece section of the shaft by sliding the ring along the shaft until it lodges around the shaft in a position that does not block recorder air holes.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A recorder ring combination, comprising:  
a recorder;

a ring comprising means for lodging the ring around a shaft of a the recorder; and  
a separate strap attached to the ring.

16. (Original) A recorder ring combination according to claim 15, wherein the strap comprises a neckstrap configured to fit around the neck of a user.

17. (Original) A recorder ring combination according to claim 15, wherein the recorder comprises an enlarged shaft section near a mouth piece thereof.

18. (Original) A recorder ring combination according to claim 17, wherein the enlarged shaft section comprises a gradual taper from a narrow section to a wider section.

19. (Original) A recorder ring combination according to claim 17, wherein the means for lodging the recorder ring around the recorder shaft comprises a ring structure configured to fit securely around the enlarged shaft section.

20. (Original) A recorder ring combination according to claim 15, wherein the means for lodging the ring around the recorder shaft comprises a ring diameter that fits securely around the recorder shaft at a position along the shaft that does not block any air holes of the recorder.